

From Editor Other
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Time to Fight

To the Editor of The Chattanooga Times:

Winston Churchill once said of the indecision of the free world powers, "If you will not fight for the right when you can easily win without bloodshed, if you will not fight when your victory will be sure and not too costly, you may come to the moment when you will have to fight with all the odds against you and only a precarious chance of survival."

These words of wisdom spoken during the perilous days for Britain of the early '40s ring true today in the free world's—in America's—in your and my war with communism.

With this thought in mind, it is with deep concern that I have noted in recent editorials—while clearly championing the cause of democracy—apparent undertones directed at sometimes unnamed Americans who favor a strong pro-American anti-Communist policy—as illustrated in your May 1 editorial which includes the statement "men of little faith are predicting that a strong Communist gale might overthrow Uncle Sam," since Americans are so "apathetic."

Is America complacent? Allen Dulles, director of the CIA, says there is a dangerously complacent attitude among many people in the United States today, and points to this as a dangerous weakness in our national effort.

I will not pretend to be an expert on this complex threat to our way of life. I know that whether our children live under communism as Mr. Khrushchev boasts, depends on you and me.

Now, more so than ever, is the time to unite as Americans and stand up for freedom, instead of squander our efforts on petty domestic and internal problems. Now, we must marshal the resources of freedom in one common cause—it must be more than physical strength, it must be the union of the minds and souls of all free men—for this is what communism wants most—just look at Cuba.

But, what can we do individually now, you say, which will make any difference? Let's resolve:

1. To reaffirm the tenets of our American heritage and pass these principles on to our children at every opportunity.
2. To educate ourselves and our children to the maximum of our ability.

3. To work at our jobs at a maximum effort—so to eliminate wasted energy.

4. To take an active interest in local, state, and national politics by registering and voting in every election, by writing our representa-

tatives urging them to vote against excessive federal spending and control.

5. To consecrate our hearts and minds to the cause of freedom—confident that we stand firm, ready to make the needed sacrifice when the Communist cancer strikes, whether it be in Berlin, the Congo, Laos, Cuba, Formosa or even San Francisco—to not only stand firm against the threat of Communist tyranny but also to learn to act rather than react—only then will freedom emerge victorious.

Only when we collectively live and cherish these ideals more than our complacent way of life will we be certain of "peaceful coexistence" and victory over communism.

In closing, referring again to another alternative which Churchill said could face the free world if it does not act decisively—"There may even be a worse case. You may have to fight when there is no hope of victory, because it is better to perish than to live as slaves."

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